**Manchester Bombing 1996**

**Where**

The Manchester Bombing was located in Manchester, England. Manchester is a city and metropolitan district in Greater Manchester, England, situated in the south-central part of North West England. It lies within one of the United Kingdom’s largest urban areas – the Greater Manchester Urban Area, with a large population.

**When**

The bombing occurred on Saturday 15 June 1996, at 11:17:04 (BST).   
The bomb was discovered in the morning. At around 9:20am, a red and white Ford Cargo truck was parked on Corporation Street, outside the Marks & Spencer store, close to the Arndale Centre. CCTV footage shows the truck was abandoned by two hooded men. Within three minutes, a traffic warden issued the vehicle with a ticket and called for its removal, however simultaneously at 9:43am, Granada Studios on Quay Street received a telephone call claiming that there was a bomb at the corner of Corporation Street and Cannon Street and that it would explode in one hour. The caller had an Irish accent and said a code word so that police would know the threat was genuine. Police arrived at the scene not long after, and found wires running from the truck’s dashboard through a hole into the rear, where the bomb was. At 10:00am, police began an evacuation, moving approximately 80 000 people who were shopping or working in the vicinity. Fire-fighters and security guards also assisted by establishing a cordon to prevent entry into the area, which reached maximum extent by 11:10am. A few minutes before, a bomb squad from their base in Liverpool arrived, at 10:46am, and tried to defuse the bomb using a remote-controlled device; however they ran out of time. The bomb exploded at 11:17am.

**Why**

The bomb was targeted at city’s infrastructure and economy, to cause widespread damage. The IRA adopted a strategy of violence to achieve its aim of a united Ireland, after years of strife and disagreement with the British government. As a result, the IRA set off the biggest bomb in Britain since WWII.

**Who was responsible?**

Provisional IRA

**Impacts of the bombing**

The Manchester Bombing caused an estimated £700 million (£1 billion as of 2012) of damage in addition to affecting a third of the city centre’s retail space. Marks & Spencer, the [sky bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sky_bridge) connecting it with the [Arndale Centre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Arndale), and neighbouring buildings were destroyed. It was the largest peacetime bomb ever detonated in Great Britain, and the blast created a mushroom cloud which rose 300 metres from the ground. Glass and masonry were thrown into the air, and behind the police cordon people, up to 0.8km away, were showered by falling debris. There were no fatalities, but 212 people were injured. A search of the area for casualties was confused by [mannequins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mannequin) blasted from shop windows, which were sometimes mistaken for bodies. Hospitals across Greater Manchester were made ready to receive those injured in the blast. The police organised a [Metrolink](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Metrolink) tram to take 50 of the casualties to [North Manchester General Hospital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Manchester_General_Hospital), which treated 79 in total; a further 80 were cared for at the [Manchester Royal Infirmary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Royal_Infirmary), and many others were treated in the streets by ambulance crews assisted by doctors and nurses who happened to be in the city centre that morning.

Number of Deaths: 0

Number of Injured: 212

**5 websites where someone could get useful information**

* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996_Manchester_bombing#Discovery> (Wikipedia)

Wikipedia is without a doubt useful, as it provides accurate and detailed response, recalling what happened on this fateful day in 1996. It also has numerous statistics.

* <http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/june/15/newsid_2527000/2527009.stm> (BBC news)

This site is reliable as it provides opinions and details from the time this bombing occurred. It shows the terror and shock experienced by everyone.

* <http://geographicalconcepts.wikispaces.com/Manchester+Bombing> (Geographical Concepts)

This is useful as it has a convenient timeline of when all the events happened, and visual images to assist. It also has information which is reliable.

* <http://www.manchester2002-uk.com/buildings/bombing.html> (Manchester UK)

This site is beneficial, as it is from the ‘Vitual Encyclopaedia of Greater Manchester’. Therefore, it portrays the views of people who were affected first-hand.

* <http://www.helium.com/items/1496960-the-bomb-in-manchester> (Helium)

This site gives a good summary of all that had occurred and why. It is written in a way that is easy to understand, which is simple to understand.